Forest Development Agency

342. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the formation of Forest development Agency for implementation of forest development works takes place in forest divisions under the National Afforestation Plan;

(b) whether different conditions of climate, soil and bio-pressure prevailing in various States have been considered while prescribing ideal cost norms for forest development works under the said scheme;

(c) whether any proposals have been received from Rajasthan for amending the sanctioned cost norms for fencing of tree plantation area; and

(d) whether Government propose flexibility in Ideal Cost Norms according to the request made by Rajasthan State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Guidelines provide for model cost norms for various components of the FDA projects based on existing labour wage rate of the State.

(c) Yes, Sir. Proposals have been received from Rajasthan Forest Department for increasing the cost norms for fencing under NAP.

(d) The main objective of NAP is to regenerate degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation. NAP Guidelines, therefore, provide that the cost of fencing component should not normally exceed 5%. However, the guidelines also provide that for projects requiring higher allocation for fencing, funds to the extent of 10% of plantation cost may be expended by effecting matching reduction in the allocation under the component "Overheads".

Pollution of sea water on the West Coast

343. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sea water on the West Coast of India is polluted with hazardous chemicals;